GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3794
ANSWERED ON:16.05.2006
VISIT OF BANGLADESH P.M
Subba Shri Moni Kumar

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the discussions held with the P.M. of Bangladesh relating to trade and commerce during her recent visit to India;

(b) whether any agreement has been signed between the two countries;

(c) if so, the details of the agreement signed; and

(d) the steps taken to implement the same?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) : During the visit of Bangladesh Prime Minister to India in March, 2006, the two sides held comprehensive discussions on the entire gamut of bilateral relations including trade related issues. It was agreed that the meetings of the concerned bilateral institutional mechanisms, such as Joint Economic Commission, would be held more frequently to ensure movement in a positive direction and their outcome monitored by the political leadership on a continuous basis. The two Prime Ministers reaffirmed the commitment to work closely together to find mutually satisfactory solutions on all bilateral matters.

(b) & (c) : The revised Bilateral Trade Agreement between India and Bangladesh was signed on 21st March, 2006 which would be valid for a period of three years w.e.f. 1st April, 2006. This Agreement provides inter-alia for expansion of trade and economic cooperation, making mutually beneficial arrangement for the use of waterways, railways and roadways, passage of goods between two places in one country through the territory of the other, exchange of business and trade delegations and consultations to review the working of the Agreement atleast once a year.

(d) : The Government of India is taking all steps to encourage bilateral trade and economic cooperation between the two countries on an ongoing basis, such as regular initiatives through various institutional mechanisms under which periodical meetings are held to address issues concerning the above.